



# The Idaho Task Force on Self-Determination

Update on the Self-Directed Services Waiver Option May 2006

## Waiver Amendment Approved

The 1915C waiver amendment to allow Idaho to implement a self-directed services option was finally approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). David Rogers, Idaho Medicaid Director, worked very hard in negotiating with CMS to get a plan approved that will allow participants the most flexibility and choice in their service and provider options.

"My Voice, My Choice" is the final name for the new Medicaid self-directed services option. The tentative date for roll out is October 2006 and the option will be available to people in three areas: Pocatello, Boise and Moscow.

**Temporary rules** for the self-directed option were posted in the April Administrative Bulletin and can be viewed at this website:

<http://adm.idaho.gov/adminrules/bulletin/bul/06apr.pdf>

You can click on the line in the left hand column that reads: "16-03-09 Rules Governing the Medical Assistance Program" to go directly to the rules specifically for the self-directed services option. The temporary rules will be in effect July 1, 2006 and guide the administrative operation of the self-directed model when it begins. As people begin to use the option and we see how things work for people, this will allow for the rules to be changed as needed.

Several workgroups continue to meet within Medicaid to put the final pieces in place before *My Voice My Choice* can be operational. The project is being coordinated by Jean Christensen with Ike Gayfield as the project director. There is a Core Team working on implementation and other groups working on: individual

budgeting, support broker training, fiscal management services, and quality assurance. A Communication Team is working on public awareness materials, and training for various audiences including participants, family members, providers, and DHW staff.

DD Council staff met with Ike and Jean recently for an Independence Plus Grant partnership meeting. The Council proposed that Council staff develop the participant guide - "**A Guide to a Self-Directed Life**" and the training curriculum for individuals with developmental disabilities and Medicaid agreed. Tracy Warren will be working on these over the next few months. She will be seeking **input on the participant guide and training materials** as they are developed and there will be opportunities to review the materials and provide comments and suggestions in the near future.

The web page for the *My Voice, My Choice* program is located on the Dept. of Health and Welfare website. Click on "self-direction" that appears in the right hand column. Here is the link directly to the *My Voice, My Choice* page:  
<http://www.healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/site/3618/default.aspx>

This **website** is currently under development and will be continually updated to provide accurate and easy to understand information about how the new system works.

The **web-based portion of the training for support brokers is now available** on the Dept. of Health and Welfare website. Additional components of the training and support broker manual are still under development and **recruitment for support brokers** is planned to begin soon.

We are in the final months of the federal Independence Plus Grant that has funded much of our design, development and implementation activities for the last three years. We have been getting technical assistance from CMS as we work to complete the final infrastructure needed to make the self-directed system ready for operation. Medicaid staff will be submitting a “no-cost extension” for the grant to CMS. Which, if approved, will give us an additional 15 months to spend the remaining funds and adjust our timeline so that we can finish needed work.

## Idaho SALN

The Idaho Self Advocate Leadership Network teams from Regions 3 and 4 and replacement team members for Region 1 and Region 2 are finishing their training the end of June. A graduation celebration is scheduled for June 29<sup>th</sup>. As these new members come on board Idaho will have teams of self-advocate trainers in every region of Idaho. If you would like to know more about the team from your region, please call the DD Council office.

Idaho SALN members have been providing presentations at conferences and participating in meetings throughout Idaho. The Region 5 Team gave a presentation at the “Tools For Life” - Secondary Transition and Technology Fair in Boise the end of February. A group of self-advocates are traveling to Atlanta, Georgia the end of this week to attend the national SABE (Self Advocates Becoming Empowered) conference. Idaho SALN members will be presenting at that conference.

## How can you provide input?

Throughout this update, there have been specific items in **bold type**. All of these are opportunities for input into making the self-directed option happen. Please contact Tracy at the DD Council office if you would like more information about getting involved.

In addition, the DD Council has completed a draft **five-year workplan**. The plan will be available on the Council website the end of this week at: [www.icdd.idaho.gov](http://www.icdd.idaho.gov) you can also get a copy of the plan by calling the DD Council office. We are asking people to provide **input on the plan** and tell us what they think the Council should be working on for the next five years.

Please contact Tracy if you have any questions about this update.

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